

GOVERNOR'S FORUM ON MONITORING SALMON RECOVERY AND WATERSHED HEALTH SUMMARY MINUTES

DATE: October 5, 2005
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Ruckelshaus, Co-Chair	Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Laura Johnson	Director, Office of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
Bruce Crawford	Program Manager, Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
Terry Wright	Designee, Northwest Indian Fish Commission
Josh Baldi	Designee, Department of Ecology
Ginny Stern	Designee, Department of Health
Carol Smith	Designee, Conservation Commission
Joe Scordino	Deputy Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries
Chris Drivdahl	Designee, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Craig Partridge	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Marnie Tyler	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jeff Breckel	Designee, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Richard Brocksmith	Designee, Lead Entity Advisory Group
Paul Ancich	Designee, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Advisory Board
Steve Waste	Designee, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Alan Christensen	Designee, U.S. Forest Service

IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SUMMARY BE USED WITH THE MATERIALS PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.
A RECORDED COMPACT DISK IS RETAINED BY IAC AS THE FORMAL RECORD OF MEETING.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Co-chair Bill Ruckelshaus opened the meeting of the Governor's Forum on Monitoring (Forum) at 9:10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF JULY 19, 2005 MINUTES

Alan Christensen noted that Jeff Uebel, US Forest Service, attended the July 19 Forum meeting and would like this reflected in the minutes.

Chris Drivdahl recommended that in future meeting summary minutes all action items and decisions be highlighted.

The Chair suggested adding the words "State Legislators and the Governor" to the second paragraph on page 3 of the July minutes

Chris Drivdahl **MOVED** to approve the July 19, 2005 minutes. Craig Partridge **SECONDED** the motion. **Minutes APPROVED as amended.**

FORUM STAFF REPORT

Bruce Crawford presented his staff report. (See notebook "Staff Report for October 5, 2005" memorandum for details.)

Bruce reviewed the memo highlighting the biennial report that is due to the Legislature and Governor by January 2006 and a monitoring status report due March 1, 2006 to the Office of Financial Management (OFM). He also pointed out a list of subcommittee assignments and guidance that came out of the April Monitoring Workshop.

Bruce discussed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) Status Report on Salmon Recovery Efforts in Washington that was included in the members' meeting packet.

The Chair urged members to read the JLARC report as it underscores the importance of our work.

2006 MEETING SCHEDULE

The draft schedule for 2006 was discussed. An error was noted for the May 12, 2006 date that should have been Thursday, May 11, 2006.

Chris Drivdahl strongly advised adding a meeting in December 2005 in order to review a draft of the report to the Governor which is due in January 2006.

Bruce suggested piggybacking the Forum meeting with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) meeting on December 1 or 2 in Seattle and restricting the Forum agenda to the most urgent topics.

Director Laura Johnson noted that the SRFB agenda was fairly full but she would work with staff to try to fit in a half-day Forum meeting on either December 1 or 2.

Director Johnson **MOVED** to adopt the 2006 Meeting Schedule with the correction of the May 11 date. Ginny Stern **SECONDED**. **The 2006 Meeting Schedule was APPROVED as amended.**

TYING TOGETHER MONITORING IN REGIONAL SALMON RECOVERY PLANS

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

Chris Drivdahl and Steve Leider gave a PowerPoint presentation and update of regional recovery plans.

Chris noted that six regional organizations are actively engaged in the monumental task of recovery plan development and are on track to have all plans for the Washington portion of the ESUs finalized and approved by mid-2006. A review of the plans showed that they all identify the concept of adaptive management and the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy

monitoring types, but provide little detail.

Steve noted the following elements that have been found to be most consistent across the recovery plans:

- General reference to implementation monitoring.
- Orientation to NOAA viable Salmonid population parameters, especially abundance and productivity.
- Emphasis on fish status and trends monitoring.
- Inclusion of habitat condition status and trends monitoring.
- Need for regionally-oriented data and management systems.
- Use of monitoring committees or groups within regions.
- Identification of general regional research needs.
- Monitoring costs are generally not identified.
- Willingness to utilize available guidance and coordinate with existing monitoring efforts.

The GSRO was tasked by the Forum to identify what statewide coordination or guidance is needed to assist the refinement and implementation of regional recovery plans. The general responses by the regions to this question were:

- Help with how best to approach adaptive management and monitoring in regional recovery plans.
- Identify existing efforts and how they can fit into regional plans.
- Identify gaps and funding to address them.
- Firm up agency roles and expectations for regional monitoring.

Steve reported that the different regions would like to see a collaborative effort to help identify key management decisions and questions across local, regional, state, and federal levels targeting monitoring needs and consistency.

The Chair stressed how important it is for NOAA and all agencies to come together to be part of developing guidance for the regions.

Bruce noted that a top down setup is necessary to develop a basic framework for how data will be collected and shared.

Jeff Breckel hopes the Forum will maintain the momentum that exists for both the development and implementation of recovery plans. The Forum has been helpful in terms of integrating the different perspectives across the regional boards.

Craig Partridge remarked on the need to communicate with federal, state, and local decision-makers the success we are having with developing recovery plans.

Chair Ruckelshaus voiced the need for the Forum to address what its role is and decide how it can best assist the regions to continue their work.

NOAA

Kim Kratz, NOAA Fisheries, provided a PowerPoint overview of an initial guidance document that is being developed, including a decision framework design and approach to prioritizing monitoring efforts.

Joe Scordino, Deputy Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, explained how this guidance document could be useful not only for monitoring and evaluation, but to identify what needs to be done relative to recovery actions. He noted that the document shows each decision made when listing species, which is the same decision used when de-listing species.

Chair Ruckelshaus pointed out that the guidance document could be a useful tool, but needs to be broken down further to be more relevant to the regions and their constituents.

Joe explained that the next step would be figuring out the right balance and taking it to the local level.

Chris Drivdahl remarked that we will finally have in one place for decision-makers to see and, hopefully, understand how deep the problem of salmon recovery is. She believes we will be able to take the next step to find out what it will take to de-list the fish now that we have the criteria that NOAA will use to make that decision.

Joe gave a presentation of the draft Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) framework. (See handout for more information.) He noted how the PCSRF framework shows the program is making progress in achieving its targets and is a helpful tool in reporting to Congress how they are meeting their goals.

Steve Waste pointed out the differences between PCSRF's monitoring efforts, which are focused on the ESA listing, and the regional approach to monitoring, with its strong leaning toward a preventative mode.

Bruce discussed the challenge this Forum faces in finding the commonalities in the customized factors for each region that need to be rolled up and reported to Congress to show that we're making progress toward recovery.

Recommendations

Bruce summarized the discussion draft handout of initial staff recommendations for Forum consideration. (See handout for further details.)

- Funding priorities
- Fish monitoring

Early Action Recommendations:

- Key decisions and monitoring questions
- Data access and sharing
- Implementation monitoring

- Status/trend monitoring of habitat and water quality condition
- Intensively monitored watersheds (IMWs)

Chair Ruckelshaus would like to have a short discussion today and bring the issue back in December for a decision.

Marnie Tyler made a **MOTION** to approve the following recommendations:

1. Regional monitoring plans incorporate monitoring of both viability through Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) parameters and the listing factors.
2. Monitoring plans incorporate existing statewide monitoring initiatives, such as IMW.
3. While the Forum recognizes that each regional plan addresses unique circumstances of the ESU, they will include data elements that will be aggregated to a statewide level.
4. When collecting data elements that will be aggregated at a statewide level, they should follow data collection and management protocols developed by the Forum.
5. Monitoring plans will include an adaptive management process.

Discussion:

Carol Smith agreed with the five points and would also like to see the implementation monitoring section fleshed out further by the subcommittee.

Marnie explained that the intent of the motion was to give broad recommendations and have the subcommittees work on details such as indicators and metrics.

There was discussion on recommendation #4 and the problems associated with developing common data collection protocols.

Jeff Breckel agreed with the broad concepts in the recommendations but pointed out that details on what should be consistent or common protocols still need to be determined. He is concerned that too much standardization may cause loss of historical data.

Bruce reported that the Salmon and Watershed Information Management Technical Advisory Committee (SWIMTAC), as well as the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP), are working on this issue. Whether you are using Timber, Fish and Wildlife (TFW) or Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (EMAP) protocols, or some other set of protocols, at some point the measurements will need to be combined. Some work will need to be done as a committee to determine how the measurements differ.

Marnie retracted the data collection and management protocols recommendation from her motion but did not drop them from consideration.

Jeff noted that the monitoring plans need to be integrated and he would like to see the regional monitoring programs focus on providing information needed to make management decisions at the local, regional, state, and federal levels.

Richard Brocksmith recommended including local partners, counties, regions, and tribes,

in subcommittee meetings.

Chair Ruckelshaus agreed that there needs to be collaboration and should include those who want to be included.

Terry Wright **SECONDED** the motion. **The recommendations were APPROVED as amended.**

ESTUARY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Sarah Brace, Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT), and Curtis Tanner, Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), provided this presentation. (See Summary Report handout for further details.)

Sarah explained that the subcommittee has been working to develop regional indicators while responding to the Forum's desire to include coastal, estuary, and marine water indicators in the next edition of the State of the Salmon (SOS) report. The workgroup supports the previously reported list of indicators presented to the Forum in July 2005.

The group recommends a two-step process in developing the indicators.

1. Short-term indicators:

- Can be used in the near term to characterize the systems given the extent of data that currently exists.
- Would develop framework for long-term indicators.
- Would not provide a comprehensive characterization of multiple components of the ecosystem, nor adequately provide spatial coverage of the entire region.
- Would take approximately 9 months to complete at an estimated cost of about \$57,000.

2. Long-term indicators:

- Will require additional monitoring data, synthesis, and modeling.
- Tasks will include building a conceptual model linking the indicators/indices to stressors and to management actions.

Sarah discussed the next steps which would provide coordination across workgroups by developing land-cover change and impervious surface coverage change indicators in conjunction with freshwater and terrestrial monitoring groups.

Chris Drivdahl asked about the estimated cost of \$57,000 to find the information and where the money might come from. She wondered if there would be a way to get the information using existing funds.

Since the Forum doesn't have the ability to fund projects, Chair Ruckelshaus believes a policy needs to be developed on how to proceed when funds are requested. He would like the Forum to look at efficiencies and make sure what we are spending money on now,

collectively, matches our priorities.

Curtis pointed out that finding the information and developing a long-term strategy is not currently on anyone's work schedule. He noted the need to build a more comprehensive look at ecosystem health, which would require additional resources. The subcommittee would like guidance on next steps from the Forum.

Bruce Crawford acknowledged that this subcommittee's work offers a very valuable connection between freshwater and marine components. He noted that in past years it has been a collaborative effort among the agencies to generate data for the SOS as part of the reporting process to the Legislature.

The Chair gave Chris delegated authority to request information that agencies are already collecting.

FISH ABUNDANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Jim Scott, WDFW, and Ken Currens, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), presented this agenda item.

Jim discussed this workgroup's task to review and refine fish indicators in the SOS report.

Recommendations:

- Focus on abundance and productivity.
- Include spawners, smolts and adults.
- Present results for individual population for last two years in addition to aggregate ESU by year.
- Add metric for freshwater productivity.

Key point: Collect total count data on spawners, smolts, and total adults in the same watershed.

Enhancements to improve the quality of indicators:

- Spawners
 - Increase number of stocks monitored.
 - Estimate natural-hatchery composition on spawning grounds for more populations.
 - Develop alternate approaches for counting escapement.
 - Improve precision/accuracy of estimates – provide confidence intervals.
- Smolts
 - Add monitoring sites.
 - Improve estimates from existing sites.
- Adults
 - Compute adult abundance for listed coho and Chinook populations.
 - Refine methods to estimate fishing and other pre-spawning mortalities.

Summary:

- Effective communication – The SOS can be improved by the addition and refinement of metrics.
- Power of information – Clearest understanding of recovery progress when abundance monitored for spawners, smolts, and total adults in the same watershed.
- Resource limitations – Currently measure all three, but not everywhere due to limited resources and logistical feasibility.

Carol Smith suggested using mostly wild stock when measuring abundance and productivity in all life stages. She would also like harvest estimates to be very plainly noted in the next SOS report.

Chris Drivdahl voiced concern with separating adults and spawner abundance in the report. She doesn't feel this would give harvest information in a manner the Legislators could use.

Ken Currens observed that the recovery criteria is more complex than has been reported in the SOS, but he understands the need to make the information transparent and simple for the public. The Forum needs to make a decision on how it wants the information presented.

Chair Ruckelshaus would be interested in seeing the cost benefit of reducing the level of uncertainty by increasing the number of sites monitored.

Bruce discussed using a stock market report approach to show trends in ESUs. He noted that we can show broad scale indicators in the SOS, but NOAA needs more details. The real issue, as far as cost benefit, is what should we monitor and how does it roll up to a bigger picture so the Legislature can understand it.

Ginny Stern reflected on how the strength of the SOS is its simplicity and its ability to get the basic message out to a lot of people. She suggested focusing on a few areas in order to show the complexity of the issue.

Jeff Breckel would like to keep the report simple and clear without suggesting we've reached the goal of recovery.

The Chair noted the difficulty of communicating science and policy while keeping it simple enough for public understanding without sacrificing accuracy. He would like to see this group dedicate itself to being as accurate as possible given the limitations of data.

REVIEW OF OUTLINE FOR UPCOMING FORUM REPORT

Bruce reviewed the draft outline of the 2006 Biennial Report:

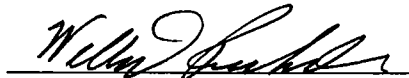
- Introduction
- Coordination of monitoring among agencies

- Developing broad measures of salmon recovery
- Recommendations to regions, Legislature, and Governor
- Future monitoring activities

Bruce discussed the two charts that were included in the member's packets. (See handouts "State Agency Databases Supporting Ongoing Monitoring Programs" and "State Agency Monitoring Programs" for details.) He noted that the information on the charts was compiled during the development of the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy (CMS). Bruce requested updated monitoring information from each of the state agencies involved for inclusion in the Biennial Report. He will provide a draft of the 2006 Biennial Report for discussion at the next Forum meeting. He would also appreciate any comments reflecting content of the report.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.


William Ruckelshaus, Co-Chair

Next Meeting: December 1, 2005
 King Street Station
 Seattle